

Serial No: 10/705,487

CLAIMS

Claims 1-40 (Cancelled).

41 (Currently amended). An apparatus for increasing the flow of blood in a patient, the apparatus comprising:

- (A) a base contoured to seat near a central region of a patient's chest;
- (B) an actuator;
- (C) a substantially inelastic belt means configured to wrap around said patient's chest;
- (D) tightening means, mounted on said base, coupled to said actuator, and having belt connectors coupled to opposite extremities of said belt means, for (1) converting a force applied to said actuator into belt means tightening resultant forces applied to said belt connectors directed substantially tangentially to said chest and (2) releasing said resultant forces to a minimal level; and
- (E) indicator means, coupled to said tightening means, for providing an indication of when said tightening means has released said resultant forces to said minimal level.

42 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 41 wherein said actuator is a manual actuator and said force is manually applied to said actuator.

43 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 42 wherein said force converter also converts said force applied to said actuator and directed toward said chest into a chest compressing resultant directed through said base towards the chest.

44 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 42 wherein said manual actuator comprises first and second hand grippable handles.

45 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 42 further comprising defibrillating means coupled to said base.

Serial No: 10/705,487

46 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 45 further comprising first and second spaced electrodes mounted to said apparatus for contacting two spaced outer chest surfaces with said first electrode being mounted to a base outer, chest-contacting surface and said second electrode being mounted to an apparatus chest-contacting surface which is spaced from said first electrode.

47 (Currently amended). The apparatus of Claim 42 further including a rigid, substantially planar backboard and wherein said belt means includes two separate portions with one end of each of said portions attached to said board.

48 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 47 wherein the other ends of said portions of said belt means are attachable to and removable from said force converter.

49 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 42 further comprising first and second spaced electrodes mounted to said apparatus for contacting two spaced outer chest surfaces with said first electrode being mounted to a base outer, chest-contacting surface and said second electrode being mounted to an apparatus chest-contacting surface which is spaced from said first electrode.

50 (Previously presented). A method of CPR treating patients comprising:

- (A) seating a base of a blood flow increasing apparatus on a patient's chest near a central region of said chest;
- (B) wrapping a belt with first and second opposite extremities around said patient's chest;
- (C) fastening to said apparatus any of said extremities of said belt not already fastened to said apparatus;
- (D) applying a force, directed toward said chest, to an actuator coupled to a converter coupled to said base and said belt;
- (E) converting said force into belt tightening resultants directed substantially tangentially to said chest;
- (F) releasing said resultant forces to a minimal level;

Serial No: 10/705,487

- (G) receiving an indication from said actuator that said tightening means has released said resultant forces to said minimal level: and
- (H) after receiving said indication from said actuator, again applying a force, directed toward said chest, to said actuator.

51 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 50 further including periodically repeating steps (D) to (H).

52 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 51 wherein said force is manually applied to said actuator.

53 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 52 further including converting said force applied to said actuator and directed toward said chest into a chest compressing resultant directed through said base towards the chest.

54 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 52 wherein applying said force includes manually gripping said first and second hand grippable handles.

55 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 52 further comprising defibrillating the chest of said patient undergoing CPR.

56 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 55 further including contacting two spaced outer chest surfaces with a first electrode and a second electrode.

57 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 52 wherein said belt includes two separate portions and further including attaching one end of each of said portions to a rigid, substantially planar backboard.

58 (Previously presented.). The method of Claim 57 further including attaching the other ends of said portions of said belt to said apparatus.

59 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 52 further including contacting two spaced outer chest surfaces with a first electrode and a second electrode.

Serial No: 10/705,487

60 (Currently amended). An apparatus for increasing the flow of blood in a patient, the apparatus comprising:

- (A) a base contoured to seat near a central region of a patient's chest;
- (B) an actuator;
- (C) a substantially inelastic belt means configured to wrap around said patient's chest;
- (D) tightening means, mounted on said base, coupled to said actuator, and having belt connectors coupled to opposite extremities of said belt means, for (1) converting a force applied to said actuator into belt means tightening resultant forces applied to said belt connectors directed substantially tangentially to said chest and (2) releasing said resultant forces to a minimal level; and
- (E) stop means, coupled to said tightening means, for, after said tightening means has converted a force applied to said actuator into said belt means tightening resultant forces, preventing said tightening means from converting a force subsequently applied to said actuator into said belt means tightening resultant forces until said tightening means has released said resultant forces to said minimal level.

61 (Currently amended). The apparatus of Claim 60 wherein said ~~safety~~ ~~stop~~ means for limiting the magnitude of the belt means tightening resultants limits the magnitude to a preselected one of a plurality of magnitudes.

62 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 60 wherein said actuator is a manual actuator and said force is manually applied to said actuator.

63 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 62 wherein said force converter also converts said force applied to said actuator and directed toward said chest into a chest compressing resultant directed through said base towards the chest.

64 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 62 wherein said manual actuator comprises first and second hand grippable handles.

Serial No: 10/705,487

65 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 83 further comprising defibrillating means coupled to said base.

66 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 65 further comprising first and second spaced electrodes mounted to said apparatus for contacting two spaced outer chest surfaces with said first electrode being mounted to a base outer, chest-contacting surface and said second electrode being mounted to an apparatus chest-contacting surface which is spaced from said first electrode.

67 (Currently amended). The apparatus of Claim 62 further including a rigid, substantially planar backboard and wherein said belt means includes two separate portions with one end of each of said portions attached to said board.

68 (Currently amended). The apparatus of Claim 67 wherein the other ends of said portions of said belt means are attachable to and removable from said force converter.

69 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 62 further comprising first and second spaced electrodes mounted to said apparatus for contacting two spaced outer chest surfaces with said first electrode being mounted to a base outer, chest-contacting surface and said second electrode being mounted to an apparatus chest-contacting surface which is spaced from said first electrode.

70 (Previously presented). A method of CPR treating patients comprising:

- (A) seating a base of a blood flow increasing apparatus on a patient's chest near a central region of said chest;
- (B) wrapping a belt with first and second opposite extremities around said patient's chest;
- (C) fastening to said apparatus any of said extremities of said belt not already fastened to said apparatus;
- (D) applying a force, directed toward said chest, to an actuator coupled to a converter coupled to said base and said belt;

Serial No: 10/705,487

- (E) converting said force into belt tightening resultants directed substantially tangentially to said chest;
- (F) releasing said resultant forces to a minimal level;
- (G) preventing said tightening means from converting a force subsequently applied to said actuator into said belt tightening resultant forces until said tightening means has released said resultant forces to said minimal level; and
- (H) after said tightening means has released said resultant forces to said minimal level, again applying a force, directed toward said chest, to said actuator.

71 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 70 further including selecting said specific magnitude of said belt tightening resultants from a plurality of selectable magnitudes.

72 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 71 further including periodically repeating steps (D) to (H).

73 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 72 wherein said force is manually applied to said actuator.

74 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 73 further including converting said force applied to said actuator and directed toward said chest into a chest compressing resultant directed through said base towards the chest.

75 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 73 wherein applying said force includes manually gripping said first and second hand grippable handles.

76 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 73 further comprising defibrillating the chest of said patient undergoing CPR.

77 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 76 further including contacting two spaced outer chest surfaces with a first electrode and a second electrode.

Serial No: 10/705,487

78 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 73 wherein said belt includes two separate portions and further including attaching one end of each of said portions to a rigid, substantially planar backboard.

79 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 78 further including attaching the other ends of said portions of said belt to said apparatus.

80 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 73 further including contacting two spaced outer chest surfaces with a first electrode and a second electrode.

81 (Currently amended). An apparatus for increasing the flow of blood in a patient, the apparatus comprising:

- (A) a base contoured to seat near a central region of a patient's chest;
- (B) an actuator;
- (C) a substantially inelastic belt means configured to wrap around said patient's chest; and
- (D) a force applicator, mounted on said base, coupled to said actuator, and having belt connectors coupled to opposite extremities of said belt means, for (1) storing the energy from a force applied to said actuator and directed toward said chest and (2) upon the withdrawal of said force from said actuator, releasing said stored energy into belt means tightening resultants applied to said belt connectors directed substantially tangentially to said chest.

82 (Cancelled).

83 (Currently amended). The apparatus of Claim 82 81 wherein said actuator is a manual actuator and said force is manually applied to said actuator.

84 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 83 wherein said force converter also converts said force applied to said actuator and directed toward said chest into a chest compressing resultant directed through said base towards the chest.

Serial No: 10/705,487

85 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 83 wherein said manual actuator comprises first and second hand grippable handles.

86 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 83 further comprising defibrillating means coupled to said base.

87 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 86 further comprising first and second spaced electrodes mounted to said apparatus for contacting two spaced outer chest surfaces with said first electrode being mounted to a base outer, chest-contacting surface and said second electrode being mounted to an apparatus chest-contacting surface which is spaced from said first electrode.

88 (Currently amended). The apparatus of Claim 83 further including a rigid, substantially planar backboard and wherein said belt means includes two separate portions with one end of each of said portions attached to said board.

89 (Currently amended). The apparatus of Claim 88 wherein the other ends of said portions of said belt means are attachable to and removable from said force converter.

90 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 84 further comprising first and second spaced electrodes mounted to said apparatus for contacting two spaced outer chest surfaces with said first electrode being mounted to a base outer, chest-contacting surface and said second electrode being mounted to an apparatus chest-contacting surface which is spaced from said first electrode.

91 (Previously presented). A method of CPR treating patients comprising:

- (A) seating a base of a blood flow increasing apparatus on a patient's chest near a central region of said chest;
- (B) wrapping a belt with first and second opposite extremities around said patient's chest;
- (C) fastening to said apparatus any of said extremities of said belt not already fastened to said apparatus;

Serial No: 10/705,487

- (D) applying a force, directed toward said chest, to an actuator coupled to a converter coupled to said base and said belt;
- (E) storing the energy from said force applied to said actuator and directed toward said chest; and
- (F) upon the withdrawal of said force from said actuator, releasing said stored energy into belt tightening resultants applied to said belt connectors directed substantially tangentially to said chest.

92 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 91 further including selecting said specific magnitude of said belt tightening resultants from a plurality of selectable magnitudes.

93 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 92 further including periodically repeating steps (D) to (F).

94 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 93 wherein said force is manually applied to said actuator.

95 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 94 further including converting said force applied to said actuator and directed toward said chest into a chest compressing resultant directed through said base towards the chest.

96 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 94 wherein applying said force includes manually gripping said first and second hand grippable handles.

97 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 94 further comprising defibrillating the chest of said patient undergoing CPR.

98 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 97 further including contacting two spaced outer chest surfaces with a first electrode and a second electrode.

99 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 94 wherein said belt includes two separate portions and further including attaching one end of each of said portions to a rigid, substantially planar backboard.

Serial No: 10/705,487

100 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 99 further including attaching the other ends of said portions of said belt to said apparatus.

101 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 94 further including contacting two spaced outer chest surfaces with a first electrode and a second electrode.

102 (Currently amended). An apparatus for increasing the flow of blood in a patient, the apparatus comprising:

- (A) a base contoured to seat near a central region of a patient's chest;
- (B) an actuator;
- (C) a substantially inelastic belt means configured to wrap around said patient's chest; and
- (D) a force converter, mounted on said base, coupled to said actuator, and having two belt connectors coupled to opposite extremities of said belt means, for converting a force applied to said actuator and directed toward said chest into belt means tightening resultants directed substantially tangentially to said chest to cause movement of said two belt connectors in the direction to tighten said belt means around said patient, said converter including a toothed surface, coupled to said actuator, and gears, coupled to said belt connectors and engaged with said toothed surface, said force applied to said converter causing said toothed surface to move along said gears in a manner to move said two belt connectors in said direction to tighten said belt means around said patient.

103 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 102 wherein said actuator is a manual actuator and said force is manually applied to said actuator.

104 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 103 wherein said force converter also converts said force applied to said actuator and directed toward said chest into a chest compressing resultant directed through said base towards the chest.

Serial No: 10/705,487

105 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 104 further comprising defibrillating means coupled to said base.

106 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 105 further comprising first and second spaced electrodes mounted to said apparatus for contacting two spaced outer chest surfaces with said first electrode being mounted to a base outer, chest-contacting surface and said second electrode being mounted to an apparatus chest-contacting surface which is spaced from said first electrode.

107 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 104 further comprising first and second spaced electrodes mounted to said apparatus for contacting two spaced outer chest surfaces with said first electrode being mounted to a base outer, chest-contacting surface and said second electrode being mounted to an apparatus chest-contacting surface which is spaced from said first electrode.

108 (Currently amended). The apparatus of Claim 104 wherein said force converter converts said force applied to said actuator to cause said toothed surface to move along said gears in a manner to move said two belt connectors substantially equally in said direction to tighten said belt means around said patient.

109 (Currently amended). The apparatus of Claim 104 wherein said actuator moves said two belt connectors in said direction to tighten said belt means around said patient proportionally to the magnitude of the movement of said actuator toward said chest.

110 (Currently amended). The apparatus of Claim 104 wherein said actuator moves said two belt connectors in said direction to tighten said belt means around said patient nonproportionally to the magnitude of the movement of said actuator toward said chest.

111 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 104 wherein said toothed surface is a double sided ratchet and at least one of said gears is engaged with each side of said ratchet.

Serial No: 10/705,487

112 (Previously presented). A method of CPR treating patients comprising:

- (A) seating a base of a blood flow increasing apparatus on a patient's chest near a central region of said chest;
- (B) wrapping a belt with first and second opposite extremities around said patient's chest;
- (C) fastening to said apparatus any of said extremities of said belt not already fastened to said apparatus;
- (D) applying a force, directed toward said chest, to an actuator coupled to a toothed surface of a converter coupled to said base, said toothed surface being engaged with gears coupled to said converter and said first and second opposite extremities of said belt;
- (E) converting said force into motion of said toothed surface against said gears to move said gears in a direction to produce belt tightening resultants directed substantially tangentially to said chest and applied to said two belt extremities; and
- (F) moving said two belt extremities in the direction to tighten said belt around said patient.

113 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 112 further including periodically repeating steps (D) to (F).

114 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 113 wherein said force is manually applied to said actuator.

115 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 114 further including converting said force applied to said actuator and directed toward said chest into a chest compressing resultant directed through said base towards the chest.

116 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 115 further comprising defibrillating the chest of said patient undergoing CPR.

PAGE 14/30 * RCVD AT 5/11/2005 1:00:07 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/0 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:312 258 1389 * DURATION (mm:ss):08:08

Serial No: 10/705,487

eccentrics to move said two belt connectors substantially equally in said direction to tighten said belt means around said patient.

130 (Currently amended). The apparatus of Claim 125 wherein said actuator moves said two belt connectors in said direction to tighten said belt means around said patient proportionally to the magnitude of the movement of said actuator toward said chest.

131 (Currently amended). The apparatus of Claim 125 wherein said actuator moves said two belt connectors in said direction to tighten said belt means around said patient nonproportionally to the magnitude of the movement of said actuator toward said chest.

132 (Previously presented). A method of CPR treating patients comprising:

- (A) seating a base of a blood flow increasing apparatus on a patient's chest near a central region of said chest;
- (B) wrapping a belt with first and second opposite extremities around said patient's chest;
- (C) fastening to said apparatus any of said extremities of said belt not already fastened to said apparatus;
- (D) applying a force, directed toward said chest, to an actuator coupled to first and second eccentrics each pivotally mounted at first pivots on said base and pivotally mounted at second pivots to said actuator;
- (E) converting said force into motion of first and second eccentrics in a direction to produce belt tightening resultants directed substantially tangentially to said chest and applied to said two belt extremities; and
- (F) moving said two belt extremities in the direction to tighten said belt around said patient

133 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 132 further including periodically repeating steps (D) to (F).

Serial No: 10/705,487

134 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 133 wherein said force is manually applied to said actuator.

135 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 134 further including converting said force applied to said actuator and directed toward said chest into a chest compressing resultant directed through said base towards the chest.

136 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 135 further comprising defibrillating the chest of said patient undergoing CPR.

137 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 136 further including contacting two spaced outer chest surfaces with a first electrode and a second electrode.

138 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 135 further including contacting two spaced outer chest surfaces with a first electrode and a second electrode.

139 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 135 wherein said force is converted into motion of said first and second eccentrics in said direction to produce said belt tightening resultants directed substantially tangentially to said chest and applied substantially equally to said two belt extremities and to move said two belt extremities substantially equally in said direction to tighten said belt around said patient.

140 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 135 wherein said two belt extremities are moved in said direction to tighten said belt around said patient proportionally to the magnitude of the movement of said actuator toward said chest.

141 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 135 wherein said two belt extremities are moved in said direction to tighten said belt around said patient nonproportionally to the magnitude of the movement of said actuator toward said chest.

142 (Currently amended). An apparatus for increasing the flow of blood in a patient, the apparatus comprising:

(A) a base contoured to seat near a central region of a patient's chest;

Serial No: 10/705,487

- (B) a manual actuator mounted on said base so that a force applied manually to said actuator toward said chest applies pressure to said base toward said chest;
- (C) a substantially inelastic belt means configured to wrap around said patient's chest and having opposite extremities;
- (D) a powered belt means tightener coupled to said base and said belt means extremities and having on and off states and, when in said on state, moving said belt means extremities in a direction to tighten said belt means around said patient's chest; and
- (E) a switch, coupled to said belt means tightener and said actuator, said switch, upon the application of force to said actuator toward said chest, placing said belt means tightener in said on state.

143 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 142 wherein said force converter also converts said force applied to said actuator and directed toward said chest into a chest compressing resultant directed through said base towards the chest.

144 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 142 further comprising defibrillating means coupled to said base.

145 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 144 further comprising first and second spaced electrodes mounted to said apparatus for contacting two spaced outer chest surfaces with said first electrode being mounted to a base outer, chest-contacting surface and said second electrode being mounted to an apparatus chest-contacting surface which is spaced from said first electrode.

146 (Previously presented). The apparatus of Claim 142 further comprising first and second spaced electrodes mounted to said apparatus for contacting two spaced outer chest surfaces with said first electrode being mounted to a base outer, chest-contacting surface and said second electrode being mounted to an apparatus chest-contacting surface which is spaced from said first electrode.

Serial No: 10/705,487

147 (Currently amended). The apparatus of Claim 142 wherein said belt means tightener, when in said on state, moves said two belt connectors substantially equally in said direction to tighten said belt means around said patient.

148 (Currently amended). The apparatus of Claim 147 wherein said belt means tightener includes an electric motor.

149 (Currently amended). The apparatus of Claim 147 wherein said belt means tightener includes a fluid-pressure motor.

150 (Currently amended). The apparatus of Claim 149 wherein said belt means tightener includes a hydraulic motor.

151 (Currently amended). The apparatus of Claim 149 wherein said belt means tightener includes a pneumatic motor.

152 (Previously presented). A method of CPR treating patients comprising:

- (A) seating a base of a blood flow increasing apparatus on a patient's chest near a central region of said chest;
- (B) wrapping a belt with first and second opposite extremities around said patient's chest;
- (C) fastening to said apparatus any of said extremities of said belt not already fastened to said apparatus;
- (D) manually applying a force, directed toward said chest, to an actuator coupled to a powered belt tightener coupled to said base and said belt extremities and having on and off states and, when in said on state, moving said belt extremities in a direction to tighten said belt around said patient's chest; and
- (E) placing said belt tightener in said on state.

153 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 152 further including periodically repeating steps (D) to (E).

Serial No: 10/705,487

154 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 153 further including converting said force applied to said actuator and directed toward said chest into a chest compressing resultant directed through said base towards the chest.

155 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 154 further comprising defibrillating the chest of said patient undergoing CPR.

156 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 155 further including contacting two spaced outer chest surfaces with a first electrode and a second electrode.

157 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 152 further including contacting two spaced outer chest surfaces with a first electrode and a second electrode.

158 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 152 wherein said belt tightener, when in said on state, produces said belt tightening resultants directed substantially tangentially to said chest and applied substantially equally to said two belt extremities and moves said two belt extremities substantially equally in said direction to tighten said belt around said patient.

159 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 158 wherein said belt tightener includes an electric motor.

160 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 158 wherein said belt tightener includes a fluid-pressure motor.

161 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 160 wherein said belt tightener includes a hydraulic motor.

162 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 160 wherein said belt tightener includes a pneumatic motor.

163 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 158 wherein said belt tightener is placed in said on state by applying a force to said actuator towards said base.

Serial No: 10/705,487

164 (New). An apparatus for increasing the flow of blood in a patient, the apparatus comprising:

- (A) a substantially inelastic belt means configured to wrap around said patient's chest;
- (B) actuator means, coupled to said belt means, for, upon the receipt of power, applying a force to said belt means to move said belt means in a direction to tighten said belt means around said patient's chest, said actuator means increasing said force applied to said belt means to a magnitude from a minimal level to a higher level and then, upon reaching said higher level, releasing said force to said minimal level;
- (C) power means, coupled to said actuator means, applying said power to said actuator; and
- (E) stop means, coupled to said actuator means, for, after said actuator means has applied said force to said belt means at said higher level, preventing said actuator means from applying further force to said belt means until said actuator means has released said force to said minimal level.

165 (New). The apparatus of Claim 164 wherein said stop means limits said higher level to a preselected one of a plurality of magnitudes.

166 (New). The apparatus of Claim 164 further comprising defibrillating means coupled to said belt means.

167 (New) The apparatus of Claim 166 further including detector means coupled to said belt means for determining when said actuator means has applied said force to move said belt means in said direction to tighten said belt means around said patient's chest and wherein said defibrillating means is coupled to said detector means and induces an electric current through said patient's chest when said actuator means has applied said force to move said belt means in said direction to tighten said belt means around said patient's chest.

168 (New) The apparatus of Claim 167 wherein said detector means determines when actuator means has increased said force to said magnitude of said higher level and said

Serial No: 10/705,487

defibrillating means induces said electric current through said patient's chest when actuator means has increased said force to said magnitude of said higher level.

169 (New). The apparatus of Claim 166 further comprising first and second spaced electrodes mounted to said belt means for contacting two spaced outer chest surfaces with said first electrode being mounted to a base outer, chest-contacting surface and said second electrode being mounted to an apparatus chest-contacting surface which is spaced from said first electrode.

170 (New). The apparatus of Claim 164 further comprising first and second spaced electrodes mounted to said apparatus for contacting two spaced outer chest surfaces with said first electrode being mounted to a base outer, chest-contacting surface and said second electrode being mounted to an apparatus chest-contacting surface which is spaced from said first electrode.

171 (New). The apparatus of Claim 164 wherein said actuator means, after applying said force to said belt means and releasing said force to said minimal level, loosens said belt means.

172 (New). A method of CPR treating patients comprising:

- (A) wrapping a belt means with first and second opposite extremities around said patient's chest;
- (B) fastening to an actuator means said belt means including any of said extremities of said belt not already fastened around said patient's chest;
- (C) with said actuator means, applying a force from a minimal level to a higher level to said belt means in a direction to tighten said belt means around said patient's chest;
- (D) releasing said applied force from said belt means;
- (E) preventing said actuating means from subsequently applying a force to said actuator means in said direction until said tightening means has released said applied forces has reached said minimal level; and

Serial No: 10/705,487

(F) after said applied force has reached said minimal level, again applying a force to said belt means in said direction.

173 (New). The method of Claim 172 further including selecting said minimal level of said applied force from a plurality of selectable magnitudes.

174 (New). The method of Claim 173 further including periodically repeating steps (C) to (F).

175 (New). The method of Claim 174 further comprising defibrillating the chest of said patient undergoing CPR.

176 (New). The method of Claim 175 further including detecting when said force has been applied to said belt means in said direction to tighten said belt means around said patient's chest and inducing a defibrillating electric current through said chest when said force has been applied to said belt means in said direction to tighten said belt means around said patient's chest.

177 (New) The method of Claim 176 further including detecting when said force has been applied to said belt means at said higher level in said direction to tighten said belt means around said patient's chest and inducing a defibrillating electric current through said chest when said force has been applied to said belt means at said higher level in said direction to tighten said belt means around said patient's chest

178 (New). The method of Claim 175 further including contacting two spaced outer chest surfaces with a first electrode and a second electrode.

179 (New). The method of Claim 172 further including contacting two spaced outer chest surfaces with a first electrode and a second electrode.

180 (New). The method of Claim 172 wherein said belt means, after said applied force is released, is loosened.

Serial No: 10/705,487

181 (New) The apparatus of Claim 45 further including detector means coupled to said belt means for when said tightening means has converted a force applied to said actuator into belt tightening resultant forces and wherein said defibrillating means is coupled to said detector means and induces an electric current through said patient's chest when said tightening means has converted a force applied to said actuator into belt tightening resultant forces.

182 (New) The apparatus of Claim 181 wherein said detector means determines when said tightening means has converted a force applied to said actuator into about maximal belt tightening resultant forces and said defibrillating means induces said electric current through said patient's chest when said tightening means has converted a force applied to said actuator into about maximal belt tightening resultant forces.

183 (New). The method of Claim 55 further including detecting when said force directed towards said chest has been converted into said belt tightening resultants and inducing a defibrillating electric current through said chest when said force directed towards said chest has been converted into said belt tightening resultants.

184 (New) The method of Claim 183 further including detecting when said belt tightening resultants have reached about maximal level and inducing a defibrillating electric current through said chest detecting when said belt tightening resultants have reached about maximal level.

185 (New) The apparatus of Claim 65 further including detector means coupled to said belt means for determining when said tightening means has converted a force applied to said actuator into belt tightening resultant forces and wherein said defibrillating means is coupled to said detector means and induces an electric current through said patient's chest when said tightening means has converted a force applied to said actuator into belt tightening resultant forces.

186 (New) The apparatus of Claim 185 wherein said detector means determines when said tightening means has converted a force applied to said actuator into about

Serial No: 10/705,487

maximal belt tightening resultant forces and said defibrillating means induces said electric current through said patient's chest when said tightening means has converted a force applied to said actuator into about maximal belt tightening resultant forces.

187 (New). The method of Claim 76 further including detecting when said force directed towards said chest has been converted into said belt tightening resultants and inducing a defibrillating electric current through said chest when said force directed towards said chest has been converted into said belt tightening resultants.

188 (New) The method of Claim 187 further including detecting when said belt tightening resultants have reached about maximal level and inducing a defibrillating electric current through said chest detecting when said belt tightening resultants have reached about maximal level.

189 (New) The apparatus of Claim 86 further including detector means coupled to said belt for determining when said force applicator has released said stored energy into said belt tightening resultants and wherein said defibrillating means is coupled to said detector means and induces an electric current through said patient's chest when said force applicator has released said stored energy into said belt tightening resultants.

190 (New) The apparatus of Claim 189 wherein said detector means determines when said belt tightening resultants have reached about maximal and said defibrillating means induces said electric current through said patient's chest when belt tightening resultants have reached about maximal level.

191 (New). The method of Claim 97 further including detecting when said stored energy has been released into said belt tightening resultants; and, when said stored energy has been released into said belt tightening resultants, inducing a defibrillating electric current through said chest.

192 (New) The method of Claim 191 further including detecting further including detecting when said belt tightening resultants have reached about maximal level

Serial No: 10/705,487

and inducing a defibrillating electric current through said chest detecting when said belt tightening resultants have reached about maximal level.

193 (New) The apparatus of Claim 105 further including detector means coupled to said belt means for determining when said force converter has converted a force applied to said actuator into belt tightening resultant forces and wherein said defibrillating means is coupled to said detector means and induces an electric current through said patient's chest when said force converter has converted a force applied to said actuator into belt tightening resultant forces.

194 (New) The apparatus of Claim 193 wherein said detector means determines when said force converter has converted a force applied to said actuator into about maximal belt tightening resultant forces and said defibrillating means induces said electric current through said patient's chest when said force converter has converted a force applied to said actuator into about maximal belt tightening resultant forces.

195 (New). The method of Claim 116 further including detecting when said force directed towards said chest has produced said belt tightening resultants and inducing a defibrillating electric current through said chest when said force directed towards said chest has produced said belt tightening resultants.

196 (New) The method of Claim 195 further including detecting when said belt tightening resultants have reached about maximal level and inducing a defibrillating electric current through said chest detecting when said belt tightening resultants have reached about maximal level.

197 (New) The apparatus of Claim 126 further including detector means coupled to said belt means for determining when said force converter has converted a force applied to said actuator into belt tightening resultant forces and wherein said defibrillating means is coupled to said detector means and induces an electric current through said patient's chest when said force converter has converted a force applied to said actuator into belt tightening resultant forces.

Serial No: 10/705,487

198 (New) The apparatus of Claim 197 wherein said detector means determines when said force converter has converted a force applied to said actuator into about maximal belt tightening resultant forces and said defibrillating means induces said electric current through said patient's chest when said force converter has converted a force applied to said actuator into about maximal belt tightening resultant forces.

199 (New). The method of Claim 136 further including detecting when said force directed towards said chest has produced said belt tightening resultants and inducing a defibrillating electric current through said chest when said force directed towards said chest has produced said belt tightening resultants.

200 (New) The method of Claim 199 further including detecting when said belt tightening resultants have reached about maximal level and inducing a defibrillating electric current through said chest detecting when said belt tightening resultants have reached about maximal level.

201 (New) The apparatus of Claim 144 further including detector means coupled to said belt means for determining when said belt tightener has moved said belt extremities in said direction to tighten said belt around said patient's chest and wherein said defibrillating means is coupled to said detector means and induces an electric current through said patient's chest when said belt tightener has moved said belt extremities in said direction to tighten said belt around said patient's chest.

202 (New) The apparatus of Claim 201 wherein said detector means determines when said belt has been about maximally tightened about said chest and said defibrillating means induces said electric current through said patient's chest when said belt has been about maximally tightened about said chest.

203 (New). The method of Claim 155 further including detecting when said belt extremities have been moved in said in said direction to tighten said belt about said patient's chest; and inducing a defibrillating electric current through said chest when said belt have been moved in said in said direction to tighten said belt about said patient's chest.

Serial No: 10/705,487

204 (New) The method of Claim 203 further including detecting when said belt has been about maximally tightened about said patient's chest and inducing said defibrillating electric current through said chest when said belt has been about maximally tightened about said patient's chest